

COMMUNITY OFFICES:

102-1108 Austin Avenue
Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 3P5
Phone: (604) 937-5911

2567 Shaughnessy Street
Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3C 3G3
Phone: (604) 941-4001



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0A6

OTTAWA OFFICE:

Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa
K1A 0A6
Tel: (613) 996-8036

April 21, 1992

Hon. Benoît Bouchard
Minister of National Health and Welfare
Room 325, East Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Bouchard:

I have recently had the opportunity, through Mr. Chris Brown of the Allergy and Environmental Health Association, to learn more about the plight of Canadians suffering mental and physical symptoms of environmental sensitivities. Mr. Brown has brought me up-to-date on the efforts you and your Department have made to change attitudes and increase awareness of this serious disability and I would like to congratulate you for this.

Of particular concern to me is the number of people suffering from environmental sensitivities who may be misdiagnosed as suffering from a mental disorder when reporting symptoms such as hallucinations, hysteria and others that often form the basis of a diagnosis of psychiatric illness. I would be interested in knowing what steps your Department plans to take to make screening for environmental sensitivities a common practice amongst health professionals working in the area of mental health. As well, I would appreciate your comments on the possibility that there may be many individuals who are suffering from environmental sensitivities who have and are receiving psychiatric care and treatments which are inappropriate to their needs.

Again, my congratulations to you and your Department for the work you have done on this issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

I. WADDELL, M.P.
PORT MOODY - COQUITLAM

cc: Mr. Chris Brown, Allergy and Environmental Health Association

PASS/APGS

Ian Waddell, M.P.
Port Moody/Coquitlam